

Fall into the

Breathe easy

at home program

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Special points of Interest:

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- > ISD Landlord Meetings
- > Asthma Action Plan Updating
- > New Website Materials
- > Boston Home Visiting Collaborative Outreach Event
- > Boston Collaborative Meeting on Safe & Healthy Housing 2012
- > Our New Asthma Director

Helpful Hints



1. Please explain the program to your patients: Breathe Easy at Home provides home inspections from the City's Inspectional Services Department. Inspectors work with property owners to eliminate asthma – related violations within the home. Breathe Easy at Home may not appeal to patients of yours who own their homes. Please ask patients if they own their homes and if so, provide them with the informational article about the ISD Landlord Meetings.
2. Breathe Easy referrals need to be made online.
3. On the referral form, please provide the patients' permanent address. The address recorded in the patient's medical record may be their mailing address so please double-check.
4. Although we are associated with programs that used to provide them, **Breathe Easy does not provide air conditioners or vacuum cleaners.**
5. Our data is showing more patients being cited for housing violations. Even though we ask that tenants not to clean evidence of mold or infestations, tenants need to exercise proper care and maintain their homes in a sanitary condition. Please refer to our informational handout on Housekeeping Responsibilities for Tenants on our website.

Thank you all so much for your continued support, patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Amanda Ali

Breathe Easy at Home
Coordinator

ISD Landlord Meetings

The Inspectional Services Department invites all Boston landlords to the "ISD Landlord Engagement Meetings." The purpose of this effort is to work together with landlords to ensure that safe healthy housing is available to Boston renters. Topics covered will include: property owner rights & responsibilities, interpretation of the Housing

Code and its enforcement process. Special topics such as: bed bug infestation, Integrated Pest Management, how to handle access issues, and hoarding will be covered periodically. The meetings will take place on the **3rd Thursday of every month** at the Inspectional Services Department, Commissioners Office Conference room, 5th floor at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue.

Each meeting is from 6-7:30pm. Those who are interested in attending are encouraged to register in advance and inform of any language needs, by contacting 617-961-3297 or ISD Housing@cityofboston.gov.

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Save the Date!

For the Boston Asthma Home Visit Breakfast

Asthma Action Plan Updating



As you know, an integral part of asthma management is the development of a written asthma action plan. Since summer camps and school plans are underway, make sure asthma action plans are updated and accurate.

Learn about Boston's asthma home visit capacity and progress and trends.

The Boston Asthma Home Visit Collaborative has developed a city-wide, standardized evidence-based asthma home visiting program for Boston children and adults with asthma, available in multiple languages.

The Boston Asthma Home Visit Collaborative members include Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Medical Center, Children's Hospital Boston, Ecumenical Social Action Committee, Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, Neighborhood Health Plan and Tufts Medical Center.

Thursday, September 27, 2012 at the Mattapan Community Health Center at 1575 Blue Hill Avenue from 8:00am to 9:30am

New Materials

When a case is scheduled for Housing Court, residents are notified in writing. Our "Breathe Easy Process" flyer now includes this information. This flyer, as well as our "Safe Cleaning For People with Asthma" recipe flyers into Spanish, Haitian Creole, Somali, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. These resources can be found on our website along with our Integrated Pest Management and Housekeeping Responsibilities for Tenants information flyers. Please tell your patients about our resources and if necessary, print them out for them!



New Asthma Director

We'd like to introduce and welcome Nivedita Gunturi, the new Director of Asthma Prevention & Control at the Boston Public Health Commission. Nivedita is a native Texan, but went to college at Tufts and medical school in Chennai, India. She is a writer and a singer and loves good coffee and Russian literature. She also heads a nonprofit organization working in urban slums in Chennai, and is hopeful about a career in infectious disease and public health.

Collaborative Meeting

On Thursday, June 7th, inspectors from the Environmental Hazards and Lead Departments of the Boston Public Health Commission and housing inspectors from Inspectional Services teamed up with managers, maintenance supervisors and superintendents from the Boston Housing Authority to renew their commitment to safe and healthy housing in Boston.

The 94 participants (compared to last

year's 88) heard from Executive Director of the BPHC, Barbara Ferrer, the Deputy Administrator for the BHA, Bill McGonagle as well as the Acting Commissioner of ISD, Bryan Glasscock who all thanked and praised them for their work in the city. Presentations also included a Breathe Easy at Home success story from the Boston Medical Center, a case study about the Bromley-Heath housing development, the operations of the BPHC's Office of Environmental Hazards, Boston's Hoarding

Taskforce and the BHA about their resident involvement programs. Once again, Breathe Easy at Home program was honored to be featured at this year's convention and a part of its successes!

Topics for next year's convention include pest management companies and strategies, bedbugs and emergency utility resources for residents.

Congratulations on a great job!

BREATHE EASY AT HOME <http://www.cityofboston.gov/isd/housing/bmc>